

Message Text

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47

ORIGIN SS-10

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DRAFTED BY: P:PMARTINEZ

APPROVED BY: P:PMARTINEZ

S/S:MR. MOFFAT

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P 201616Z MAY 75 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 117275 TOSEC 010072

EXDIS

FOR UNDER SECRETARY SISCO

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE, MAY 19, FROM ATHENS RPTD
TO YOU:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 3690

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS GR VS

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE AVAILABILITY OF US WEAPONS FROM VIETNAM

1. OVER THE WEEKEND I SAW DEFENSE MINISTER AVEROFF WHO
TOLD ME THAT THE GREEK GOVT HAD BEEN APPROACHED
ABOUT THE POSSIBLE PURCHASE OF US WEAPONS FROM
VIETNAM. HE SAID THAT HE WAS TOLD THAT A VARIETY OF
"LIKE NEW" US WEAPONS WERE AVAILABLE AND THAT THE PRICES
WERE VERY ATTRACTIVE -- APPROX 25 PERCENT OF THEIR ORIGINAL
COST. AVEROFF SAID HE WAS NOT SURE IF THESE WERE BONA FIDE
OFFERS OF AVAILABILITY AND HE WAS HAVING THE MATTER
CAREFULLY CHECKED BECAUSE, IF TRUE, SUCH WEAPONS WOULD BE
A GOOD BUY AND PRESUMABLY PROMPTLY AVAILABLE, AND "BETTER
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THEY BE IN GREEK HANDS THAN VIETNAMESE".

2. I TRIED TO GET ADDITIONAL DETAILS FROM AVEROFF BUT
HE WAS UNWILLING TO SAY ANY MORE AT THIS STAGE. HE DID
PROMISE TO GIVE ME FURTHER INFORMATION IF THIS TURNED OUT
TO BE A SERIOUS OFFER OF SUCH EQUIPMENT. KUBISCH UNQUOTE.
INGERSOLL

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